

Appln. No.: 10/080,791
Amendment Dated October 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005

BSI-488US

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet has been added.

Attachment

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-13 and 15-30 are pending in this application. The Office Action of June 27, 2005 ("the Office Action") rejects all the pending claims. The applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with the limitations of the intervening claims and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph issue is addressed. In response to the Examiner's suggestion, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 16, have canceled claims 2, 13, 14, and 16, have amended claims 17 and 18 to depend from claim 1, and have amended claim 21 consistent with the recitation of allowable subject matter in the office action, as understood by the applicants. Applicants' cancellation of the aforementioned claims is without prejudice. Below, applicants address the remaining issues raised in the Office Action in the order they were presented.

35 U.S.C. § 112 - antecedent basis

Claim 1 has been amended to correctly identify the "second portion," which has antecedent basis within the claim's preamble, rather than the second endoluminal device.

Drawings

Fig. 7 has been added to the specification. The addition of Fig. 7 does not constitute new matter because this embodiment was described in the text of the specification as originally filed at page 9, line 23:

Although shown in Fig. 4 with balloon 120 and proximal end 131 of device 130 as part of retrograde portion 102 covered by retrograde sheath 112, in an alternative embodiment (not shown) balloon 120 and proximal end 131 of device 130 may be part of anterograde portion 104 covered by anterograde sheath 126.

The addition of Fig. 7 merely illustrates this previously described embodiment and addresses the Office Action's request for a figure depicting an embodiment of the invention whereby the anterograde sheath extends proximally over the balloon.

Specification

The Office Action found a lack of antecedent basis for "laterally" and "anchoring means." The applicant respectfully disagrees. Nonetheless, to speed prosecution, the term "laterally," which was recited in previous claim 23, has been amended to "longitudinally" as suggested by the examiner.

"Anchoring means" was described by applicants generally in the portion of the specification as originally filed at page 8, line 29:

Anchoring can be accomplished using the stent's own radial force, or by using additional anchoring means such as hooks, barbs, balloons, tethers, and notch-and-loops arrangements, many of which are discussed in the BSI-486US Application.

Furthermore, the balloon anchoring means embodiment was discussed in detail on p. 10, line 23 through p. 11, line 19. By entry of this amendment, however, applicants have directly incorporated additional description of alternative "anchoring means" embodiments from

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Application Serial No. 10/081,641 which had been previously incorporated by reference (by title, filing date, and attorney docket number BSI-486US). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the specification now provides substantial description to support the "anchoring means" claim limitation.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe the pending application to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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